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### No Nobel Peace Prize in 1912.

The announcement in the evening paper, December 9, that the Nobel committee at Christiania would not award the Nobel Peace Prize to any one the next day, the anniversary of Mr. Nobel's birth, created a good deal of surprise among the pacifists in all countries.

The ground on which the committee is reported to have based its decision is most extraordinary. The dispatch simply said: "No work deserving the Nobel prize for peace has been accomplished this year. Therefore the peace prize will not be awarded."

It is hard to believe that the five distinguished men, members of the Norwegian Parliament, who constitute the committee can have taken this ground. It is contrary to the usual rule which they have followed. Only once in the ten years since they began to award the prize have they based its bestowal purely upon something done within the previous year or so. In all the other cases it was given to persons (or societies) prominent in peace work whose labors had extended over a series of years, and given because of their general services to the cause. We cannot believe that the committee have decided to abandon this wise custom, and hereafter make the award on the basis of something extraordinary, dramatic, spectacular, sensational.

We could easily name a dozen or more men, whose labors have extended over ten or twenty years, just as worthy to receive the prize as those who have heretofore been honored, and that, too, men who have never been more active than during the past twelve months. How the committee can have overlooked President Taft we cannot imagine. His services to the cause of arbitration and international good understanding during the last two years have never been surpassed by any pacifist, living or dead, in private or in public life. The fruit has not yet fully appeared, but time will bring it speedily to maturity. Then there is Mr. Carnegie, whose great peace endowment of ten million dollars was given only two years ago, and Mr. Ginn, whose million-dollar World Peace Foundation was started only a little earlier. Richard Bartholdt, president of the Interparliamentary Group in Congress; Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the American International Conciliation Association; David Starr Jordan, head director of the World Peace Foundation; Senator Root, president of the Carnegie Peace Endowment, and others in this country have done services of such extraordinary worth to the cause as to have merited the attention of the Nobel committee. Dr. L. Quidde, in Germany, one of the liveliest peace men of the time; Lord Weardale, president of the British Interparliamentary Group; Dr. W. E. Darby, secretary of the British Peace Society, and J. G. Alexander, for thirty years secretary of the International Law Association, would every one of them have been a credit to the roll of Nobel laureates.

In no other year of the last two decades have the peacemakers in all lands, with the exception of a small group in one country, done more thoroughgoing and effective work than during 1912. It was not their fault that the Tripolitan or the Balkan war broke out. In the face of these two immense calamities, for which the governments of Europe were responsible, they have kept the faith and boldly proclaimed their principles and policies. And this is the best possible work that can be done at such times of crisis. Indeed, it is the only kind of work that can be wisely done under such circumstances, and it ought to have its due recognition. If individuals cannot be selected at such times to receive distinction, then societies which have been carrying on large and energetic campaigns under unusual difficulties might well be given the prize, as has twice happened since the Nobel Foundation was established.

We are sure that our pacifist friends in this and other countries will not be in the least discouraged by the action of the Nobel committee. The friends of peace, as we know them, do not work for prizes. All their services would have been given just the same if no Nobel foundation had ever been created, and will be given hereafter. It is the cause of right, justice, humanity, good-will and brotherhood for which they are all struggling and sacrificing themselves, and these are their own "exceeding great reward."

### Baroness von Suttner's Lecture Tour.

The Baroness von Suttner's lecture tour of six months in this country, the origin and development of which is described by Mr. Beals on another page, has been finished, and she has returned to her home in Vienna. One of her last appearances was in Washington, where a reception was tendered her by the Congressional Club and a banquet given in her honor by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, with the co-operation of the American Peace Society. This banquet brought together many members of the Diplomatic Corps, Senators, Representatives, and others prominent in Washington life, both governmental and civil. It was a tribute such as Washington rarely ever pays to any one except some great statesman or royal personage. The Baroness made a fervent appeal, at the club reception, to the wives of Congressmen to do their utmost in behalf of unrestricted arbitration treaties.

The whole tour has been a great one. She has been listened to with very deep interest by audiences of representative men and women in many of our cities East and West. She has made a deep impression wherever she has given her message. Her marked sincerity and depth of feeling, growing out of her long contact with European militarism, have made her pleadings for the suppression of war very searching and convincing. Her call to our country to be true to its high mission and to